
EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

Many policymakers believe that educational efforts targeting disadvantaged children before they begin their traditional schooling will improve their chances of success in the K-12 system. Consequently, the federal government has expanded the Head Start and Even Start programs over the past several years. Head Start is a program which provides instruction to pre-school aged children from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Even Start serves a similar population, but targets parents with low levels of literacy and seeks to educate not just the children, but parents and children. The data below cover public school, federally funded, and non-public programs.

PREKINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT

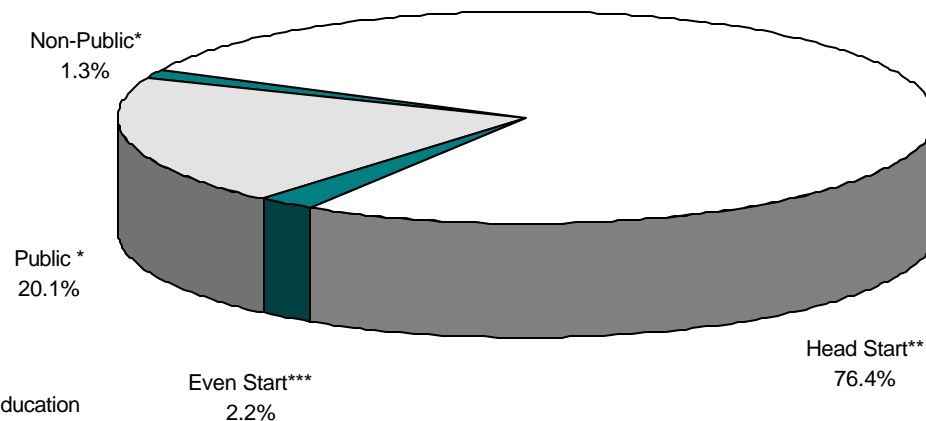
Public *	1,139
Non-Public*	76
Head Start**	4,333
Even Start***	127
Total PK Enrollment	5,675

*Source: 1998 Fall Enrollment, DECA (Includes Title 1 and Special Education students)

**Includes Early Head Start which serves infants and toddlers

*** Even Start serves parents of children ages 0-7 who possess low literacy

PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM ENROLLMENTS



FACT SUMMARY:

- ◆ Approximately 50% of Head Start children served in South Dakota are Native American.
- ◆ The Head Start Program has served a total of 17,714,000 children nationwide since it began in 1965.
- ◆ 55% of Head Start families have income of less than \$9,000 per year and 72.7% have year incomes of less than \$13,000.
- ◆ National statistics may be found at: www.acf.dhhs.gov